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Increase Leather Production

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INCREASES LEATHER PRODUCTION -- Sofia, Rabotnichesko Delo,
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On the faces of the leather craftsmen of the "Georgi Kirkov" State Industrial Enterprise one reads joy and alertness. They joined the socialist competition to a man and their efforts to overfulfill the pledges made to the Party and to Comrade Vulko Chervenkov achieved splendid results. During the first half of the year they produced 11,000 kilograms of hard leather for the State, 3,750 square meters in excess of their pledges, while at the same time production costs were markedly reduced. These products will make shoes for hundreds of children and workers, and secure additional resources for socialist construction. The workers and craftsmen of the enterprise gave an example of careful exploitation of socialist resources. Increasing their output, they produced 1,864 kilograms of sole leather and 51,880 square meters of crude finished (Russian) leather and box grained leathers -- all unplanned production. By the daily improvement of their technology and production procedures they succeeded in saving from the State Fund for wages and materials, 2,751,000 leva in excess of the promised reductions for the entire year.

Tens of production workers competed for high production indices. The best results in the socialist competition were achieved by the following four regular shock workers: the rolling machine operator, Dimo Tinchev, who regularly fulfills his quota by 151 percent; the stretcher, Khristo Totev, 180 percent; the binder, Totyu Genchev, 120 percent (all Communists);

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non-Party rolling machine operator, Khristo Donchev, 167 percent. Following their example and the advice of the Soviet engineer Kolbasov, who visited the plant, the shock workers, K. Raychev, Ch. Boynov, M. Nachev, G. Kostadinov, D. Ivanov, P. Dobrev, and others began to strive for the cultural improvement of the working area. The space around their machines is now clean, the machines/ are in order and lubricated, and the materials are carefully arranged next to their workbenches.

The plant benefitted considerably by the introduction of Soviet processing techniques for soft leather (semichrome), which enabled it to shorten the production time by almost half, as three manipulations were omitted and great savings in imported acorn dyes were achieved.

The suggestion of the technical director, Comrade Ivan Georgiev, who advocated using lard obtained from pig leather production instead of the scarce dolphin fat for the processing of soft leather, leads to a yearly economy of millions of leva. Now the plant will not only be self-sufficient, but will also supply other similar plants. Again on his suggestion, "dry" chroming in concentrated solutions with small amounts of solvent was begun. This allows a 20 percent reduction in the use of imported chromates.

Little attention was previously paid to such useful waste products as hog bristles and calf hair. Since the visit of Engineer Kolbasov, the bristles are cut, sorted and marketed

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at 400 leva per kilogram, while the calf hair is carefully cleansed with chemicals and prepared for export.

The quality of the finished leather is good, in spite of the large proportion of defective hides supplied by the slaughter houses. Those who achieved the highest quality production are: G. Yakov, P. Donchev, Kh. Krustev, St. Avramov, B. Zdravkov, L. Dyankov and other experienced workers. In their desire to improve the quality of the finished leather obtained from the defective hides, the workers, on the suggestion of the Soviet specialist, began using the shagreen process.

Great efforts are made to facilitate the labor of the plant workers. On the initiative of the manager in charge of technical inventory, Comrade Ivan Marinov, and abandoned hydraulic press was activated for draining the skins. This not only replaced the hand labor of four men, but also produced economies of time and of steam indrying the skins.

The self-less endeavours of the "Georgi Kirkov" State Industrial Enterprise have been richly rewarded. Every month considerable sums are spent from the Director's Fund for the improvement of the living and cultural conditions of the workers. Grateful to the Party and the government and proud in their knowledge of having fittingly done their patriotic duty on 9 Sept, the workers and managers of the factory manifested their soldierly readiness to defend peace and build socialism in the nation.

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